

Claim 13 has been amended to recite "fragments" of SEQ ID NO:38. Support for this term can be found in the specification, as for example, on page 10, lines 15-30.

Claims 15 to 24 have been newly added to claim additional embodiments of Applicants' invention. Claims 15-17 are directed to a nucleic acid molecule that is SEQ ID NO:38 or a fragment thereof in combination with a nucleic acid molecule encoding a linker peptide. Support for linker peptides is provided in the specification on page 10, lines 32-36.

Claims 18-22 are directed to nucleic acid molecules comprising SEQ ID NO: 38 or a fragment thereof, together with a linker sequence and a protein of interest sequence.

Claims 23-24 are directed to nucleic acid molecules comprising SEQ ID NO:38 or a fragment thereof in combination with a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein of interest.

Claims 25-28 are directed to nucleic acid molecules encoding fusion polypeptides. Support for these claims can be found in the specification on page 10, lines 25-36.

No new matter is added by this amendment or the new claims.

Applicant believe that the claims as presented herein are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Oleski
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Registration No.: 34,688
Phone: (805) 447-6504
Date: February 15, 2000

Please send all future correspondence to:
U.S. Patent Operations/NAO
Dept. 430, M/S 27-4-A
AMGEN INC.
One Amgen Center Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91320-1799